

# Population Profile of the United States

*America at the Close of the 20th Century*

## 1999

Issued March 2001

P23-205

### Current Population Reports

*Special Studies*



Demographic Programs

## U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



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Contributions to this report came from throughout the U.S. Census Bureau and were coordinated by Judith Waldrop of the Population Division's Special Projects Staff. The following people were reviewers, editors, expert advisors, data providers, cartographers, and graphic designers:

## Administrative Records and Methodology Branch

- Lisa R. Lollock
- Larry Douglas Sink
- Amy Symens Smith

## American Housing Survey Branch

- Jane M. Kneessi, Chief
- Barbara T. Williams

## Cartographic Operations Branch

- Timothy Trainor, Chief
- Constance Beard
- Deanna Fowler
- Linda Orisini

## Customer Liaison Office

- Stanley J. Rolark, Chief
- Barbara A. Harris
- Renee Jefferson-Copeland

## Demographic Advisor

- Campbell Gibson

## Demographic Statistical Methods Division

- Douglas S. Mayfield
- Alfred G. Meier

## Education and Social Stratification Branch

- Jennifer Cheeseman Day, Chief
- Kurt J. Bauman
- Andrea E. Curry
- Gladys Martinez
- Eric C. Newburger

## Ethnic and Hispanic Statistics Branch

- Kevin Deardorff, Chief
- Joseph M. Costanzo
- A. Dianne Schmidley

## Fertility and Family Statistics Branch

- Martin O'Connell, Chief
- Amara Bachu

## Geographic Studies and Information Resources

- James D. Fitzsimmons, Assistant Center Chief

## History Staff

- David M. Pemberton

## Housing and Household Economic Statistics

- Larry Long

## Housing Characteristics

- Leonard Norry, Assistant Division Chief

## Income, Poverty, and Health Statistics

- Charles T. Nelson, Assistant Division Chief
- Jack McNeil

## Income Surveys Branch (HHES)

- Edward J. Welniak Jr., Chief
- Carmen DeNavas-Walt
- Timothy Grall

## Income Surveys Branch (DSD)

- Judith Eargle, Chief

## Journey to Work and Migration Statistics Branch

- Phillip Salopek, Chief
- Carol S. Faber

## Labor Force Statistics and Outreach

- Stephanie S. Shipp, Assistant Division Chief

## Labor Force and Transfer Program Statistics

- Charita Castro
- Michael Davern

## Marketing Services Office

- John C. Kavalunas, Chief
- David L. Wycinsky Jr.

## Modeling and Outreach Branch

- Kenton Kilgore

## Population Distribution Branch

- Colleen Joyce
- Paul Mackun
- Marc Perry
- Trudy Suchan

## Population Estimates and Projections

- Signe Wetrogan, Assistant Division Chief

## Population Projections Branch

- Frederick W. Hollmann
- Janie Slagle

## Poverty and Health Statistics Branch

- Mary Naifeh
- Joseph Dalaker
- Deborah Dove
- Bernadette Proctor

## Publication Services Branch

- Gary J. Lauffer, Chief
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- Nelsa Brown
- Janet S. Sweeney
- Laurene V. Qualls

## Public Information Office

- Robert Bernstein

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- Claudette Bennett, Chief
- John Reed

## Social and Demographic Statistics

- Robert A. Kominski, Assistant Division Chief

## Special Population Statistics

- Jorge del Pinal, Assistant Division Chief

## Special Populations Branch

- Annetta C. Smith, Chief
- Denise Smith

## Special Projects Staff

- Frank Hobbs, Chief
- Suzanna Carr
- Nicole Stoops

## Statistical Information Staff

- Linda Morris
- Karen Jones

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## **Current Population Reports**

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**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**Donald L. Evans,**  
Secretary

**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**J. Lee Price,**  
Acting Under Secretary for  
Economic Affairs

**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**  
**William G. Barron,**  
Acting Director

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### **ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION**

**J. Lee Price,**  
Acting Under Secretary  
for Economic Affairs



### **U.S. CENSUS BUREAU**

**William G. Barron,**  
Acting Director

**William G. Barron,**  
Deputy Director

**Paula J. Schneider,**  
Principal Associate Director  
for Programs

**Nancy M. Gordon,**  
Associate Director  
for Demographic Programs

**John F. Long,**  
Chief, Population Division

**Daniel H. Weinberg,**  
Chief, Housing and Household  
Economics Statistics Division

# PREFACE

Next year, the U.S. Census Bureau will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Although a national population count had been conducted every 10 years since 1790, it was not until the early 1900s that the growing demand for information created a need for a permanent professional staff. As the country's appetite for information became more intense, the Census Bureau became increasingly responsible for collecting and releasing greater amounts of data — and the need for better ways to collect more timely and detailed information became apparent.

In the mid-1930s, the Census Bureau became a pioneer in the application of probability sampling to human populations. These innovations allowed the federal government to estimate the scope and breadth of unemployment during the Great Depression and to determine whether policy initiatives such as employment programs and Social Security were having the desired effect. In the early 1940s, the agency began to conduct periodic surveys to meet the demand for up-to-date statistical measures on a variety of topics. Today's Census Bureau surveys touch on topics that the population census cannot even begin to address, such as computer use, voting behavior, and neighborhood crime.

The *Population Profile of the United States: 1999* brings together, under one cover, a wide range of data on demographic, social, economic, and housing trends for the country as a whole. While emphasizing the last decade before the turn of the century, the report includes data collected throughout the 20th century and reflects the most recent information on each topic as of October 2000. The *Population Profile* serves also as a portal leading the reader to the voluminous and more detailed reports that the Census Bureau is constantly producing.

Today, we look forward to being inundated with data from Census 2000. According to current plans, by 2004, the Census Bureau's new American Community Survey will be producing statistics for every state and most large population areas in the United States every year. Right now, we are pleased to celebrate 100 years of service. The Census Bureau and its Demographic Directorate supply information that federal, state, and local governments need to govern, businesses need to stay in business, nonprofits need to serve their communities, and you need to make informed decisions. If you think the Census Bureau only provides population counts, think again. The Census Bureau can tell you more.

Nancy M. Gordon,  
Associate Director for Demographic Programs  
U.S. Census Bureau

## Notes About This Report

The primary sources for this report are the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program, the Current Population Survey (CPS), the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), and the American Housing Survey (AHS). Data are provided for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The different population universes included in this report are shown in Appendix B.

All Current Population Reports and Current Housing Reports listed in this publication are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 or on the Census Bureau's Web site at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

General questions or comments about this report may be addressed to Judith Waldrop, Special Projects Staff of the Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233 (301-457-2437) or e-mailed to [Judith.W.Waldrop@census.gov](mailto:Judith.W.Waldrop@census.gov).

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